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## DES MOINES

## Reagan-Mondale

Former Vice President Walter Mondale Wednesday charged President Reagan with using the wrong tactics in his Central American policy, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

"When the administration took office, they perceived the problems to be principally military and only minor politically," Mondale said in a 45-minute question-and-answer session with students at Des Moines Roosevelt High School. "In my view, it's the other way around. It's a political issue."

Mondale, in the first day of a two-day campaign swing through the state, said the administration has shown poor judgment in dealing with Nicaragua.

"It's been a bad show from the beginning. He's (Reagan) made several mistakes. One was joining up with the Somoza crowd, which has the least popular support there. To identify with that old crew was a serious mistake."

Instead of supporting members of the exiled Somoza group, "we should get political discussions going about a cease-fire and refocus the political problems there," he said.

Another mistake was the alleged covert activity by the Central Intelligence Agency in the region, he said.

"The situation has created a bitter and sad situation for the people," he said.